

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on Poland

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1. The Polish people listen to broadcasts of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of America, and the Madrid radio. Although these programs are not officially banned, any family found listening to them regularly is certain to "disappear". Therefore, much care is taken by Polish families when they tune in on these broadcasts. Jamming of programs occurs frequently.
2. [redacted] one of the most effective ways to improve anti-Communist propaganda is to broadcast the names of Polish traitors--i.e., persons who are considered to be wholehearted sympathizers of the present regime and informants for the Soviets. Another method is to report frequently death sentences and life imprisonment terms imposed upon Poles who attempted to oppose the Communist government. [redacted] radio programs should stress the fact that it is believed war against the USSR is to begin in the near future, so that the resistance of the Soviet-dominated Poles will be increased.
3. One of the greatest problems confronting the Polish people is the obtaining of food. The prevalent opinion is that hunger will eventually force the people to rise against their Communist rulers. Among those items which are extremely scarce are oils, fats and sugar. The average Pole buys little clothing since prices are exorbitant and the opportunity to select is almost nonexistent. In addition, when he does make a purchase of clothing, he must present his [redacted] work book with the dues stamp of his last month's employment. In many cases the worker is not able to obtain this stamp, which indicates work completed, because the factory in which he had worked did not have the basic materials, proper tools and replacements to enable him to complete his work norm. Factory managers, in order to conceal their own errors, inform their superiors that these failures in management result from sabotage by the workers.
4. Another aspect of Communist domination which has aroused the anger of the Polish people is that all young children must be members of a Communist-dominated organization which indoctrinates the children against their own families. Particularly distasteful is the exploitation of workers by the Stachanov system which calls for certain production levels and monetary rewards.

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5. One generally popular feature of Communist ideology is the reconstruction of Poland by all Polish citizens. However, since the performance of this national duty has been an extremely obligatory one, many Poles have lost interest in the work. All other phases of the Communist program, both political and economic, are completely unacceptable to the Polish people.
6. Ninety percent of the people are against the Communist regime but there is much apathy and indifference among them. The remaining ten percent are militant Communists. Members of the age group up to 18 and 19 years of age are least resistant to the Soviets, and it is believed that this group makes up the larger part of the ten percent who are militant Communists. The Communist Party encourages their support by granting them special privileges such as food and clothing allowances and better positions.
7. All the Polish Communist leaders, especially President Bedrut and Marshal Rokossovski, are disliked, but the lower-echelon leaders, such as the police and local political officials, are most hated because of their direct contact with the people.
8. The Polish people know little about the London Polish leaders. Some of them have sympathy for General Anders because of his World War II record. Mikolajczyk is believed to be an opportunist who does not have the interests of the Polish nation at heart. Communist leaders in Poland call these officials puppets and the Polish Government in London a farce. They claim that many countries including the United States do not officially recognize this government. People believe that the Polish Government in London does not have sufficient strength nor motivation to influence the powers in a campaign to liberate Poland. They point out that during all the years of its existence, the London government has not made one important contribution in the struggle to free Poland.
9. In general, the Polish people have been disappointed in the United States, particularly in view of its full recognition of the Polish Communist government. Many ask why, for instance, Spain has not been recognized whereas the Polish Communist government has received full diplomatic privileges. However, the presentament program of the United States and its actions against the Chinese Communists in Korea have given the Polish people renewed hope because they now believe that a war between the USSR and the United States is inevitable. They feel also that if the United Nations wait too long, the task of freeing Poland will be made extremely difficult by the atomic weapons of the USSR, its fifth column and its overall military strength.
10. The easiest way to exploit the weaknesses and vulnerability of the regime is to repeat constantly that the Polish government is completely in the hands of the USSR and is maintained by force, thus resulting in slavery for the Polish people. Anti-Semitism is strong because a large number of the government officials responsible for carrying out Soviet-dictated policies are Jewish.
11. [] the Polish people recognize that since they do not have an adequate organization they are too weak to try to cast off the domination of the Soviets. [] the Polish people will never in the long run bow to the will of the Soviet rulers. 25X1
12. The extent to which the USSR exercises control over Polish shipping is evident from the fact that after leaving port, the captain, the cultural officer and a trusted Communist delegate of the crew are present when the sealed orders of the ship are opened. These orders include the ports of call, the cargo to be taken on, and a general outline of duties to be performed on board ship by the officers and the crew. [] these orders originate in the USSR inasmuch as the Polish Communists have no knowledge of the contents of the directives prior to their departure from Poland. 25X1
13. In addition to the cultural officer who is a UB agent, two other crew members are assigned to the average Polish merchant ship (sic, probably as UB men). They generally work ineffectively and their presence has only a minor influence

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on the crew. Such members are subject to ridicule and sarcasm in spite of their activities as informers. Casiniere Ulancki, a carpenter aboard the SS BALTYK, was known to be acting in such capacity. Many ships have Soviet officials aboard but in most cases these persons are of Polish birth.

14. Each Polish ship has a political officer aboard, and all members of the party must attend propaganda lectures given by him. Crew members and officers are not allowed liberty in ports located [redacted]

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15. The crews of Polish merchant ships are composed almost exclusively of Polish sailors who are recruited in Gdynia, Gdansk and Stettin. [redacted] at the port of Gdynia it would be easier for foreigners to obtain employment on Polish ships, as some [redacted] Russian sailors are signed on at that port. Approximately 40 percent of the crews are members of the Communist Party. Many crew members are deserting their ships. [redacted] about half of the crew members, if they were given the opportunity and if they had no relatives in Poland who would suffer retaliation, would desert their ships. In general, the only officers who are pro-Communist are the cultural officer, the radio operator and the first mate. 25X1

16. Durazzo, Albania and Gdynia, Poland are the two principal ports of destination for Polish merchant ships. The unloading facilities in Polish and Albanian ports are very crude in comparison with those in North America and South America. [redacted] no special equipment used by the SS BALTYK for navigating in fog and the ship has no radar equipment or equipment to signal nearby ships other than normal radio facilities and searchlights. It has a radio with a large antenna to maintain daily radio contact with Poland. Several sailors have radios on board for their own entertainment. 25X1

17. [redacted] no defense preparations in Poland against bacteriological warfare. [redacted] the Polish newspapers have given wide publicity to the destructive potato bug alleged to have been infiltrated by the Americans in the Soviet Zone of Germany. 25X1

18. Medical services available to members of the BALTYK are rudimentary and are administered by a man who has had only first-aid experience. In Poland it is claimed that each doctor is assigned a specific zone, giving treatment only to those persons living within the boundaries of his zone. Medical treatment is very difficult to obtain because the supply of doctors and drugs is scarce.

19. [redacted] in Durazzo [redacted] their uniforms were almost identical. The soldiers wore light khaki uniforms, blouses buttoned close to the neck, waist belts, military-type overseas caps, and rubber boots with leather soles. The military officers wore epauletts with stars. 25X1

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